The Secretary of State presents his compliments to Their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and has the honor to refer to the circular diplomatic note dated April 10, 1991 concerning the definition of the term "permanently resident in" for the purposes of Article 38(2) of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and Article 71(2) of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations as they pertain to the privileges and immunities accorded members of the administrative and technical and service staffs of diplomatic missions, and consular employees and members of the service staff of consular posts in the United States.

Since the distribution of this note, the Department has received numerous inquiries from the missions regarding the implications of the change in the definition of the term "permanently resident in" for both the missions and their staffs. A circular diplomatic note providing answers to these questions will be prepared and, in this connection, the Department wishes to take this opportunity to invite the Chiefs of Mission to submit to the Department any further questions which they may have regarding the change in definition.

Questions should be in writing and should be as specific as possible. They should be directed to the Office of Protocol and received no later than June 28, 1991.

All registrations of staff members after June 15, 1991, will have to be accompanied by the documentation referenced in the April 10 note if the person is to be entitled to privileges and immunities pursuant to the Vienna Conventions.

Practical considerations necessitate a revised schedule for the processing of those persons registered with the Office of Protocol on or before June 15, 1991, and a listing of such personnel will be forwarded to the missions shortly after that date. Each mission will be requested to review and update this listing ,and to provide, no later than October 15, 1991, the appropriate documentation for those persons who will not be considered "permanently resident in" the United States.

For those persons registered as of June 15 who will be considered "permanently resident in" the United States, the change will become effective January 1, 1992. Embassies will be required to return the identification cards, tax exemption cards, drivers' licenses and vehicle license plates of affected personnel to the Department no later than January 10, 1992.

Department of State,

Washington, May 28, 1991